proposal for exploration of graphite in these districts.

(d) Does not arise.

Modern Sation of Sone Canal

*317. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in modernisation of Sone Canal Project in Bihar; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Sone Canal Modernisation Project Phase I was examined and found techno-economically acceptable, but could not be given investment clearance by the Planning Commission due to inability of the State Government to provide adequate budgetary support for this project. The State Government is required to re-formuiate the scheme in the light of the diagnostic studies suggested by the Planning Commission and update the cost estimates. In the meanwhile, the Dumraon branch canal of the Sone Canal System has been included in the National Water Management project and the improvement works covered therein have been provided with assistance from the World Bank.

Diplomatic Relations with Israel

*318. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in view of the recent political developments taking place in Europe, Middle East and other regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to play a constructive role in bringing peace to West Asia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Normalisation of relations with Israel is contingent upon genuine progress in the on going peace process in West Asia.

(d) and (e). India is committed to supporting all efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement in West Asia. We will continue to work for this.

Sanctions Against South Africa

*319. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's decision to life people-to-people sanctions including cultural and sports boycott of South Africa was communicated to the African National Congress only and not to the Government of South Africa; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The decision was communicated to the African National Congress and not to the Government of South Africa.